(b) whether the Government are aware of the existence of wide disparity in the marks secured by the students of about the same caiibre as between Universities and Boards etc. Within and between States;

(c) whether in view of the above the Government propose to introduce written tests or other means to bring candidates from different Universities and States on a uniform plan?

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to constitute a Recruitment Board and introduce written test for selection of teachers in Kendriya Vidyalayas.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Bullet Proof Jackets for Soldiers

895. KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the army had recently demanded one and half lakh bullet proof jackets for the soldiers deputed on the Western, Northern and Eastern borders;

(b) whether the Government allowed purchase of only six thousand bullet proof jackets; and

(c) if so, the reasons for allowing only six thousand jackets instead of one and half lakh bullet proof jackets?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) Army Hqrs., in June 1997, forwarded a proposal for procurement of 20,000 Bullet Proof Jackets on an emergent basis. The case has been finalised most expeditiously and orders are being placed accordingly.

Pak aim to Attack on Ladakh

896. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the attention of the Government has been drawn of the newsitem captioned Ladakh mei Bhartiya thikano Ko nisana banana chahata hai Pak" appearing in 'Dainik Jagaran', dated September 29, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any action keeping in view of the fact; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A constant Vigil is maintained all along the border. Our forces are prepared to meet any threat posed from across the border.

Scheme to Construct Roads with Oil and Water Mixed

897. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR:

Will the Miniser of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering any scheme to construct roads with oil and water mixed bitumen in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be launched; and

(d) the names of the places where the roads would be constructed with this new system initially?

THE MINISTRER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G.VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b) The term "Oil and Water Mixed Bitumen" appears to refer to cutback and emulsion. Ministry's specifications already prescribe use to emulsion, in tack coat, prime coat, fog seal, slurry seal, premix carpet, surface dressing and repair of pot holes and cut back in tack coat or prime coat.

(c) and (d) In all new works on National Highways for tack coat and prime coat.

Recognition to B.Ed. Level Institutes

898. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any dicision to accord recognition to the B.Ed. level institutes in some States; and

(b) if so, the total number of B.Ed. level institutes proposed to be accorded recognition in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) Every Institution offering or intending of offer a course or training in teacher education is required to seek recognition from the National Council for Teacher Education under National Council for the Teacher Education Act, 1993. The Act has come into force with effect from 1.7.1995 and covers all the States and Union Territories of the country except the State of J&K.

World Bank Assistance for Tourism Development Projects

899. SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH: Will the